



¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the vtter abolishing of
the making of Starch of any stiffe whatsoeuer,
within the Realme of England, and dominion of Wales.



Hereas heretofore many shewes and pretences haue bene made from time to time, that Starch might and should be made of cleane Branne, or of musty, vnsauoury and vnholsome Corne vnsit for mans food, or of some rootes or other things that were not of the nature of food; By meanes Whereof, Licence and Toleration hath sometimes bene givuen for the making of the same Within this Kingdome, both in our owne time, and in the time of the late Queene Elizabeth, of famous memorie dealed. And benefit and commoditie hath and might still haue redounded vnto Us, our heires and successors, by the voluntary contributions of the makers of Starch Within our Realmes, if we would haue continued the same Toleration: But it hath appeared vnto Us by Certificats from diuers parts of this our Realme, especially in the late times of Dearth and scarcitie of Corne, that such makers of Starch did waste and consume Wheat, Meale, flower, and other like stiffe, good and wholesome for the sustenance of our louing Subiects, in great abundance: And it is still manifest by dayly experience, that though perhaps they use sometimes a little cleane Branne or vnholsome Corne, yet it turnes all but to deceipt, and vse but as a colour, whilst they make indeed the great masse of their Starch of good and perfect wheat. Therefore, as soone as wee were certainly informed that this new, vaine, superfluous and hurtfull practise of Starch making could not be continued in this our Realme, Without the intolerable losse and waste of so necessary a sustenance of life, as is wheat (which in the times of greatest plentie is by a prouident Prince to be preserued, as well for the present vse, as for prouision against Dearth and scarcitie, which is euer to be feared, and Whereof we haue had so late and grievous experience.)

And where we were further also informed by like Certificats, that the making of Starch
brought with it an other effect of as ill consequence as the former, by infecting the aire with a
osome sent for a great distance round about the places where the same was made, So as
was conceiued to be no small cause of the breeding and nourishing of the plague, which hath
long afflicted this our Realme. When these things (as wee haue said) appeared vnto vs,
we did take it to be a necessary care and duety belonging vnto vs and our Crowne, to re-
resse so great an enormtie, being apparrantly malum in se. And therefore wee did with all con-
uenient speed by our Proclamation, bearing date the tenth day of Iannary last, straightly charge
and command all maner of persons whatsoeuer, Licenceid or vn-Licenceid, that they shold
and after certaine times now past, forbeare to make any Starch within this our Realme
wheat, Rubbles of Wheat, Pollard, Branme, or any other stiffe or stiffe whatsoeuer, as
the laid Proclamation may appeare. Neuerthelesse, wee are certaintly informed, That
are in LONDON, and the Suburbs thereof, and in divers other parts of this our
realme sundry persons that still continue the making of Starch in high contempt of vs, and
had last Proclamation: Which their contempts (though they can no way bee excused) yet
(that desire by all meanes, aswel to guide and direct our Subiects to their due obedience,
to require the same at their hands,) haue thought fit in one onely direct and plaine Pro-
clamation, to expresse our selfe in this behalfe, That neither by varietie of Proclamations,
by Tolerationis or distinctions of persons or times any pretence of ignorance, doubtfull
understanding, or other excuse may bee made, either by the offendours themselves, or by the
officers of the peace, or other Officers that are to looke to the execution of our Proclamation
is behalfe. And therefore hauing fully resolved, that it is very requisite (for the causes
mentioned, and to take away all shiffts and euasions whatsoeuer) absolutely to sup-
presse and banish the making of Starch in all places of this our Realme of England, and do-
mion of Wales wheresoever, aswell of wheat, flowre, Meale, rubbles of wheat and Bran,
swoots or any other stiffe whatsoeuer:

Our doe now once againe signifie Our pleasure touching the same, to all our loving Subjects by this Our Proclamation, Willing, and straitly charging and commanding all and manner of persons whatsoeuer, that they doe not at any time hereafter make, or cause to be in any maner of Starch, of any stufce whatsoeuer within this Our Realme and Dominion. And further, that they nor any of them doe at any time hereafter, sell or bter, or cause to be sold or btered to any person or persons whatsoeuer, any such Starch so to be made within our layd Realme or Dominion. And furthermore, forasmuch as it is found by experience, that a speciall and chiefe cause of the dayly contempts heretofore committed in this behalfe, shbeene occasioned aswell by Grocers, Chandlors, and the like Retaylors, as by other persons, who buy of the Makers very cheape, and thereof make great gaine, and for their gaine encourage and imboden the Makers and conueyours, (who being needy and meane persons are stred with small profit, especially, when they are put in hope of escape or impunitie by persons of better condition,) Wee doe therefore hereby Will and require, and straitly charge and command, not onely all and singular Grocers, Chandlers, Retailers, and all maner of persons buying and selling & trading of Starch in any sort howsoeuer: but also al and singular other our loving Subjects of what qualitie or condition soever, within our said Realme and Dominion: That they and euery of them doe hereafter bterly forbeare and refraine from buying or causing to be bought, either directly or indirectly, secretly or openly, any Starch what-

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knowing the same to be made within our said Realme or Dominion, contrary to this
wille and royall pleasure hereby signified vnto them as aforesaid. And if any person
whatsoeuer, shall doe or presume to doe any thing against this our Proclamation or
thereof, wee doe hereby let them know that we are fully resolued, and doe intend to
against all & every such offendour and offendours with severitie as shal befit the great-
their contempts, in a matter so apparantly tending to the publique good and benefit of
common wealth. And wee doe further by these presents straitly charge and command
singuler Justices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Baillifses, Constables, Headboroughs
other our Officers and louring subiects whatsoeuer, vpon paine of our indignation and
displeasure, That they and every of them within their severall precincts doe from time
and at al times hereafter carefully and diligently see, and take order that this our ro-
mandement be in all points fully and strictly obserued and obeyed, and that neither
any of them doe, or shall suffer any person or persons within their severall precincts to
doe any thing contrary thereto: but that they doe from time to time by all fit
make search and inquirie, what person or persons shall offend against the tenour of
proclamation in any point. And if they the said Justices of peace, Maiors, Baillifses,
these officers of Cities or Townes corporate, or any of them, shall finde or bee cer-
tified of any person or persons offending in any the points aforesaid, That in
they shall and do immediately cause all and every such Offendour and Offendours of
qualtie or condition soever, to be apprehended and committed to prison to the common
of the Countie or place where they doe or shall inhabite, there to remaine till they shall
bome bound with sufficient suretie no more to offend against this our Proclamation
parthereof.

Giuen at Our Mannour of Woodstocke the 22. day of August, in the eight
yeere of our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God sauе the King.

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A N N O 1610.